

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6307**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 146**

**DATE PREPARED:** Nov 12, 1998  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Courts in Elkhart County.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Susan Preble  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9867

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

STATE IMPACT	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		90,935	90,935
Net Increase (Decrease)		(90,935)	(90,935)

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides for one additional magistrate to be jointly appointed by the Elkhart circuit court and Elkhart superior court.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The per magistrate cost of \$90,935 includes: \$72,000 for annual salary, \$14,083 for fringe benefits [this includes the contribution for the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF), of which magistrates are members], \$4,852 for health/dental/vision insurance and \$800 for costs incurred by the Indiana Judicial Conference for training, publications, and conferences.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** Adding a magistrate may result in an increase of the number of cases processed in Elkhart County courts and speed up the collection of court costs, a percentage of which are deposited into the state General Fund.

When court costs are collected by a court of record, 70% goes to the State General Fund, 27% goes to the county general fund, and 3% goes to the local municipal fund (but only if the city or town maintains a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record).

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** County expenditures may increase due to administrative costs associated with the hiring of support staff and the provision of office space for an additional magistrates.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Adding a magistrate may result in an increase of the number of cases processed and speed up the collection of court costs, a percentage of which are deposited into the county general fund and local municipal fund.

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Judicial Conference.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Elkhart County circuit and superior courts

**Information Sources:** Division of State Court Administration; IC 33-4-7-9.1; State Budget Agency; Indiana Judicial Conference; 1997 Indiana Judicial Report.